


## REMARKS

As required by the examiner, Figs 1 and 2 have been amended to include the phrase "Prior Art".

Claims 1-4, 6, 12, 13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by JP Patent Application 7-134977 to Yoko et al. Claims 5, 7, 8 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoko et al (JP Patent Application 7-134977) in combination with Tuchloski et al (US 6,670,073). Claims 9-11, 14-16 and 18-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 26-46 are allowable.

Applicant has elected to amend independent claim 1 to distinguish over the cited references by incorporating the following limitation, "wherein the reinforcing material covers less than twenty percent of the electrodes' interfacial surface area", from claim 14 into claim 1. Similarly, independent claim 25 was amended by incorporating the same limitation from claim 14 into claim 25. Claim 14 has been canceled. As stated by the examiner in paragraph 8 of the DETAILED ACTION, "The prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest ... how far into the interfacial surface area between the first and second electrode that the reinforcement material goes." Consequently, amending claims 1 and 25 to include the limitation from claim 14 clearly distinguishes the claimed inventions from the prior art. Because claims 2-13 and 15-24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 2-13 and 15-24 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-13 and 15-46 remain in the application. Claims 26-46 are already in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-13 and 15-25 is requested.



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